

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07

OMB-01 MC-02 ACDA-10 ABF-01 IGA-01 TRSE-00 /093 W

----- 129703

R 161024Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2895

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 21899

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, TH, VN, VS, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI ON U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: BANGKOK 21686

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION: THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN HAD A PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 14 ON HIS RECENT MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE (SEE REFTEL) IN WHICH CHATCHAI COVERED: U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND; THE FUTURE OF THE AIRBASES WHICH THE U.S. IS USING; THAI MILITARY SELF-SUFFICIENCY; CHATCHAI'S UPCOMING MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER; THE IMPASSE IN THAI-DRV RELATIONS OVER THE EX-VNAF AIRCRAFT; AND THE RECENT DUSTUP IN THAI-LAO RELATIONS WHICH CHATCHAI DEPRECATED. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL USIS TRANSLATION OF THE FULL TEXT OF CHATCHAI'S REMARKS. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE

REPORTER: ON WHAT SUBJECTS DID YOU HOLD A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR

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WHITEHOUSE?

CHATCHAI: OH, AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THE UNITED STATES. HE CAME TO INFORM ME OF HIS RETURN, AND WE HELD TALKS ON SUBJECTS...ON PROJECTS...ON FORMER AID PROJECTS WHICH WE HAVE REVIEWED. THEY ARE PROJECTS WHICH WILL MAKE THAILAND STAND ON ITS OWN FEET, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID. THERE ARE SEVERAL PROJECTS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED ALREADY, WHILE SOME WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE FUTURE. BUT I CANNOT DISCLOSE WHAT THESE PROJECTS ARE NOW, BUT THEY WILL BE DISCLOSED AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

REPORTER: WILL THERE BE SEVERAL PROJECTS?

CHATCHAI: YES. THEY INCLUDE PROJECTS EXISTING ALREADY AND WHICH ARE BEING REVIEWED, AND NEW PROJECTS.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE/SELF-SUFFICIENCY

REPORTER: ARE THEY PROJECTS CONCERNING MILITARY AID?

CHATCHAI: BOTH MILITARY AID AND ECONOMIC AID PROJECTS. IT IS OUR POLICY FOR THAILAND TO STAND ON ITS OWN FEET THEREFORE POLICY REGARDING AID MUST COORDINATE WITH GOAL. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS? PROJECTS IN THE PAST DID NOT ENABLE US TO...WHEN WE WANTED ANYTHING, IT WAS GIVEN US, BUT THE AID GIVEN DID NOT TEACH US HOW TO PRODUCE ANYTHING OURSELVES.

REPORTER: WILL MORE MILITARY EXPERTS COME HERE?

CHATCHAI: NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED YET. ONLY PRINCIPLES ARE BEING DISCUSSED FIRST. IN OTHER WORDS, THIS AID PROGRAM WILL HAVE TO BE REVISED.

FUTURE OF AIRBASES

REPORTER: WAS THE U-TAPAO BASE DISCUSSED?

CHATCHAI: NO, THE SUBJECT OF BASES WAS NOT MENTIONED AT ALL.
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WE CONSIDER THAT THE SUBJECT OF BASES HAS BEEN COMPLETELY CLOSED, THAT ALL BASES BELONG TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT NOW. NO REQUEST WHATSOEVER HAS BEEN MADE TO CONTINUE USING ANYTHING AT ALL. I MADE A REQUEST THAT HE, THAT HIS STATE DEPARTMENT, HELP SUPPORT THE PROJECT WE HAVE FOR COMPANIES PRODUCING PLANES TO SET UP PLANE MAINTENANCE UNITS IN NAKHON RACHASIMA. THE REASON WHY I HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT HELP SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IS BECAUSE BEFORE THOSE COMPANIES COME AND MAKE ANY

INVESTMENTS IN THAILAND THEY WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT THEIR STATE DEPARTMENT, SUCH AS ON THE SITUATION HERE, WHETHER IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO INVEST CAPITAL IN SUCH A PROJECT, WHAT CONDITIONS ARE, ETC. THIS IS WHY I REQUESTED HIM TO HELP SUPPORT THIS PROJECT, AND HE PROMISED HE WILL.

REPORTER: COMPANIES FOR REPAIRS TO AND MAINTENANCE OF PLANES?

CHATCHAI: COMPANIES SUCH AS ROCKWELL AND COLLINS.

THAI MILITARY SELF-SUFFICIENCY (CONTINUED)

REPORTER: A FEW DAYS AGO YOU SPOKE OF PROJECTS THAT WOULD HELP THAILAND STAND ON ITS OWN FEET. AN EXAMPLE YOU CITED WAS THAT THE UNITED STATES OUGHT TO GIVE US AID IN A FORM THAT WOULD ENABLE US TO PRODUCE LIGHT WEAPONS OURSELVES?

CHATCHAI: THAT WAS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS WE TALKED OF TODAY.

REPORTER: WHAT DID HE SAY?

CHATCHAI: HE HAS SEEN THAT WE HAVE CARRIED OUT AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED SEVERAL PROJECTS ALREADY. WE WILL HAVE OTHER BIG PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE. I CANNOT REVEAL WHAT THEY ARE BECAUSE THEY CONCERN THE MILITARY. WE WILL SPEED UP FORMER PROJECTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN DRAGGING ON FOR AS LONG AS 25 YEARS.

REPORTER: WHAT ARE THOSE PROJECTS?

CHATCHAI: THEY CONCERN THE MILITARY.

MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER
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REPORTER: WHEN WILL YOU GO TO MEET KISSINGER?

CHATCHAI: I EXPECT THAT IT WILL BE ABOUT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

REPORTER: HAS HE REPLIED YET?

CHATCHAI: THERE IS NO NEED FOR HIM TO SEND AN ANSWER. I ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET HIM DURING THE LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER, AND HE SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM, BUT THAT HE WOULD CONFIRM IT AGAIN LATER.

REPORTER: WOULDN'T IT BE AT THE SAME TIME THAT HE HAD PLANNED TO GO TO CHINA?

WHITEHOUSE

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2896

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

COMUSMACHTAI BANGKOK

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CHATCHAI: NO. HE WILL GO TO CHINA ON OCTOBER 19 AND RETURN ON
OCTOBER 23.

REPORTER: ARE YOU GOING TO REVIEW AGREEMENTS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS?

CHATCHAI: ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS ALSO, MAIN ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES. I
WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST HIM TO AMEND AND REVISE SOME MILITARY
PROGRAMS, IN ORDER TO SPEED THEM UP. IN OTHER WORDS, WE DO NOT
WANT FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES TO COME AND BE STATIONED IN
THAILAND.

THAI-DRV RELATIONS; U.S. PLANES

REPORTER: WHEN WILL YOU GO AND HOLD NEGOTIATIONS WITH VIET-NAM?

CHATCHAI: I AM WAITING FOR IT TO BE READY TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS.
THERE IS ONLY ONE OBSTACLE LEFT, REGARDING ITS DEMAND THAT WE
RETURN VARIOUS WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS. SINCE THERE ARE TWO COUNTR-
IES CLAIMING OWNERSHIP OF THOSE WEAPONS, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

REPORTER: I TALKED WITH OFFICIALS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE

EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE, AND THEY SAID THAT THEY ADHERE TO THE
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STAND THAT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW ALL PROPERTY OF A GOVERNMENT
STILL BELONGS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THAT COUNTRY, EVEN AFTER THERE
HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT.

CHATCHAI: BUT IN THIS CASE, THE FORMER GOVERNMENT HAD CONCLUDED
AN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICA. THEREFORE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNA-
TIONAL LAW, THE NEW GOVERNMENT MUST HONOR THAT AGREEMENT ALSO.
THE BEST WAY OUT WOULD BE FOR NORTH VIET-NAM TO HOLD DIRECT
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. THIS ISSUE DOES NOT CONCERN
US AT ALL, BUT IT WAS BY CHANCE THAT THOSE WEAPONS WERE BROUGHT
AND LEFT HERE.

REPORTER: WHY SHOULD NORTH VIET-NAM HAVE TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS
ON THIS ISSUE?

CHATCHAI: BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO BE SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF SOUTH
VIET-NAM ALL THE TIME. WE WANT TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORTH
VIET-NAM.

THAI-LAO RELATIONS

REPORTER: TURNING TO LAOS, DO YOU THINK THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL
BE HELD WITH IT?

CHATCHAI: THERE IS NO PROBLEM AT ALL WITH LAOS. WHAT SENSATIONS
REPORTS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS, STATING THAT THERE HAVE
BEEN GUNFIGHTS BETWEEN BOATS, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT*

REPORTER: BUT IT IS STILL CONTINUING TO ATTACK US ALL THE TIME.

CHATCHAI: NEVER MIND. TURN A DEAF EAR TO IT. A COMPARISON CAN
BE MADE TO A NEIGHBOR WHO ABUSES US ALL THE TIME, EVERY DAY,
UNTIL HE BECOMES HOARSE AND HAS NO VOICE LEFT, SO HE HAS TO
STOP ABUSING US HIMSELF (LAUGHTER).
WHITEHOUSE

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